

WYCOMBE BACKLASH HITS POOR HEMEL

Wycombe Wanderers 6, Hemel Hempstead Town 1

OUTCLASSED Hemel Hempstead Town took the backlash from a Wycombe Wanderers side still chastising itself for Saturday's Isthmian League defeat, when visiting Loakes Park for a Premier Midweek Floodlight League hiding on Tuesday evening.

A strong representation from the Wycombe squad ran rings around the Athenian League club which had gone down 2-1 at Marlow in the same competition seven days earlier.

In fact Hemel looked giddy from the very first. After hitting the crossbar in the 3rd minute, Johnny Hutchinson put Wanderers ahead nine minutes later slipping the ball home with the keeper split between covering two forwards and an open goal.

HECTIC

In the 24th minute, Town ran into hectic trouble. Hutchinson had a shot blocked and then a header, which was cleared by keeper Skelton for a corner.

Former Wembley full-back, Brian Wibberley got his head to the ball to clear a second corner off the line, but it was still in the same minute, when John Delaney ran the ball on and made it 2-0 with a sliding kick.

Bisney, harassed by Hutchinson, nodded the ball onto

his own post six minutes later, but the scoreline remained unaltered until after half-time.

Hemel visited Wycombe with several recently signed players and particularly one rather boisterous supporter, who kept those on the stands side cheerfully amused from kick-off to final whistle — and even after.

Used properly, he could save Hemel a fortune on loudspeaker systems.

PRITCHARD GOAL

A fine swerving corner off the left from Bernie Bremer was helped in by Larry Pritchard three minutes into the new half, for which Hemel had substituted Huber for the injured Barry Smith.

Wycombe brought on Keith Searle for Pritchard in the 50th minute, and the new man proceeded to miss several good chances.

A long ball out from the centre circle by Delaney was switched by Hutchinson for

Barry Baker to score his second goal of the season by flicking a shot over Skelton in the 66th minute. And two minutes later, Bremer drove home the fifth from outside the Hemel area.

Having just deposited two of the finest goals to date, Wycombe were momentarily baulked when referee Wrennal gave the first of several shock verdicts by awarding a penalty against them, supposedly for a foul by Hartridge on Mike Smith which certainly looked a fair enough challenge at the time.

Former Kingsbury Town player, Dave Underwood, slammed home the 69th minute penalty. But Wycombe found the net again four minutes from time with yet another slick goal pushed home by Searle after Skelton had blocked Hutchinson out.

BIG GAINS

Apart from their second floodlight victory in two games, Wanderers gained more than might be supposed from their easy win, for which Hemel's weakness on the left of their defence can be blamed.

The experiment of employing him in the number nine shirt only emphasised the, as yet, unharvested potential of Bernie Bremer as an out-and-out striker. It might be interesting to see how he copes as centre-forward against a stronger opposition.

M.W.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: J. Maskell; K. Blunt, C. Gale, V. Faulkner, J. Delaney, L. Hartridge, G. Anthony, B. Baker, B. Bremer, L. Pritchard. (Sub.: K. Searle, 50th min), J. Hutchinson.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: T.: M. Skelton; B. Wibberley, W. Bisney, M. Butterly, D. Underwood, M. Smith, L. Graves, K. Wallis, B. Smith (Sub.: Huber 2nd half), Wallace, Brown.

Referee: P. Wrennal (Burnham). Attendance: 675.

Goalscorers: Wycombe—Hutchinson (12), Delaney (24), Pritchard (48), Baker (66), Bremer (68), Searle (86); Hemel Hempstead—Underwood (69 pen.).

Match details: (Wycombe figures first) Shots (and headers) on goal 22-2, shots off goal 14-4, off-sides 14-3, fouls 14-6, corners 12-1.